

Indiana IAQ

September—October Issue 2012

About Indiana IAQ:

A new kind of newsletter that addresses the concerns of everyone interested in Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) in Indiana. From the many questions and concerns received this newsletter and the ones to follow are developed from specific concerns. Information is collected and applied this way to the articles published.

Who can write in? Anyone! Contractors, mitigation technicians, restoration and remediation technicians, real estate professionals, banks, doctors, lawyers, insurance professionals, investors, anyone with an interest in IAQ.

To submit an idea for an article, write to:
IndianaIAQ@solutionsiec.com.

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Solutions Is Proud To Announce Service to St. Louis, MO!

For years people across Indiana and Illinois have enjoyed the service of SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting. Now, I am proud to announce, that SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting is expanding into the Saint Louis, Missouri and surrounding areas!

Now anyone with a need in and around the St. Louis area can benefit from SOLUTIONS' board-awarded, Council-certified, accredited professionalism, including such services as:

Occupational, Environmental Safety & Health

Property Damage Assessments

Disaster Response

Insurance Claim Assessments & Protocol Generations

Indoor Air Quality & Environmental Audits

Microbial Investigations & Protocol Generations

And, much, much more!

To learn more about SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting call toll-free (877) 624-7185 ext 1 or email us at consultants@solutionsiec.com. We're also on the web at <http://www.solutionsiec.com>.

Don't take chances, gain empowering Solutions—today!



A Lesson Before You Buy: Ann's Story

Foreclosed properties have grown in number since 2008 and many are finding that these homes are priced to sale, making them attractive to potential landlords or first-time home buyers. As a result, more people are requesting indoor environmental au-

ditions of foreclosed properties than ever before and are learning the lesson many a building scientist will tell you: You can not leave a property unattended and unventilated for long before contamination sets in and hidden

costs increase.

Whether you are buying a foreclosed home or not, purchasing any building comes with a price-tag. Sometimes the price-tag is no more than the purchase price; other times, well...

(read more on page 2)

Deaths Caused by *Naegleria fowleri* Prompts Neti Pots Warning:

According to the New York Times, government health officials have issued a warning against Neti Pots after two fatal cases of a brain infection were linked to their use. Neti Pots are used to wash out the nasal passage to relieve allergies, colds, and congestions. In these two cases, Neti pots were filled with water containing the deadly amoeba, *Naegleria fowleri*.

Although the amoeba was present in tap water, stomach acid kills the amoeba, so drinking contaminated water does not pose a threat.

Neti Pots alone do not pose a threat if distilled water is used and the pot is cleaned thoroughly. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has issued a warning advising consumers to use distilled water, filtered water,

bottled water, or boiled water that has been cooled in a neti pot to avoid contracting the infection.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), *Naegleria fowleri* grows best in warm freshwater environments, such as lakes and rivers, hot springs, wells, water heaters, warm water discharges from industrial plants, and pools lacking appropriate levels of chlorine or regular cleanings.

Individuals become infected when the amoeba travels up the nose into the brain, where it causes primary amoebic meningoencephalitis, a fatal disease that destroys brain tissue. This infection is extremely rare but has a very high fatality rate. Between 1962 and 2011, there have been 123 documented cases of *Naegleria fowleri*, and

only one person has survived.

“Symptoms of *Naegleria fowleri* include fever, vomiting, seizures, and coma, and most victims die within a week,” states Diane Miskowski, MPH, Business Development Manager at EMSL Analytical, Inc., a leading environmental testing laboratory. “This amoeba often goes undetected, but EMSL Analytical provides testing for *Naegleria fowleri* from environmental samples using powerful DNA amplification methodologies.”

About the Author:

EMSL is a nationally recognized and locally focused provider of quality environmental and materials testing laboratory services. To learn more visit: www.emsl.com

A Lesson Before You Buy: Ann's Story

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... hidden costs may be high. Knowing what your actual investment is (purchase price, plus preparatory costs before moving in, plus any necessary repairs, cleaning or remediation) is very important—for your pocket book and for your health and safety. One of my latest clients illustrates these points.

After purchasing a foreclosed home, Ann (we will call her) began to move in, excited by the prospect of a cleaner-upper at such a low cost and the purchase of her first home. But, during the move-in, Ann noticed something that she hadn't before: Was that mold that she saw on the wall boards of the basement? “Also looks like soil on the floor!” she thought to herself.

That is when Ann called SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting.

Upon investigation we found that mold was on much of the gypsum wall boards (drywall), spotty on dirty concrete walls, and spotty on overhead woodwork (that was covered by a drop ceiling). The unventilated structure had become exposed to high elevations of moisture and cooler

surfaces temperatures, causing condensation, and the vegetation overgrew many portions of the substructure, trapping moisture against the house and creating a high water pressure table against the substructure. It did not help that the basement was open to the main level either; because all of that infiltrating moisture and all of the producing mold had free access to the rest of the structure, which caused mold issues along the base wall and floor boards of the main level rooms and air quality problems throughout the structure.

After contacting several remediation professionals, Ann found that the remediation investment necessary to secure the property for occupation was (including rebuild) \$30,000! Together, with the additional cost of staying somewhere else while the work was done and the purchase cost of the property, Ann was looking at an initial investment greater than the appraised value of the property (about \$17,000).

Ann's experiences demonstrate the

need for proper building assessments prior to purchase. If there is a problem it is better to know what that problem is and what the costs are to remediate that problem before you buy. That is why it is important to have a plan and an assessor in place when you begin to look at properties. Don't assume a home inspector will find things. Even if they do (1) they are not trained hygienists and (2) they won't provide you a non-bias remediation scope of work to use for contractors' estimates.

SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting's board-awarded, Council-certified, accredited staff provides comprehensive inspection services tailored around your needs for the purpose of understanding the building's specific condition. From comprehensive building history research to analysis of over 100 chemicals, moisture mapping and microbial sampling, building operating system analysis, sampling for contamination to protocol generations—SOLUTIONS can help empower you through any situation.

Don't take chances, gain empowering Solutions—today!

Solutions Is Proud To Offer Toxic Organic Compound Sampling For VOCs

Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) have been shown to emanate from many building materials including wood, linoleum, paint, plastics, PVC floor covering, glues, wood preservatives, and putty. Mold and other fungi also give off VOCs as they grow and decompose our building materials. These microbial Volatile Organic Compounds (mVOCs) have been putatively linked to ill health of building occupants and are indicative of microbial growth somewhere in the building.

For the industrial hygienist, project scientist, or environmental consultant, effectively sampling the air for these VOCs in the field use to be a problem. Traditionally, samples were taken using a sorbent tube and cumbersome sampling pump with the hope that a better method would be developed. With the advances made in instrumentation design and sensitivity, an analytical tool has emerged that provides the best and easiest way to determine the concentration and identity of many organic compounds with a simple and easy sampling technique.

SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting is proud to offer TO-15 method of air sampling.

Over the past 20 years the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) authored a series of “Toxic Organic Compound” methods in ambient air. These methods are more commonly referred to as the “TO methods”. As I mentioned earlier, these early methods of analysis were cumbersome, but times have changed with the TO-15 method. TO-15 uses more sophisticated canister technology, capable of detecting parts per trillion of certain VOCs. The GC/MS instrument also makes it possible to look at “unknown compounds” and make tentative identifications. It is this versatility that makes TO-15 one of the most powerful tools that an investigator can use for any initial evaluation.

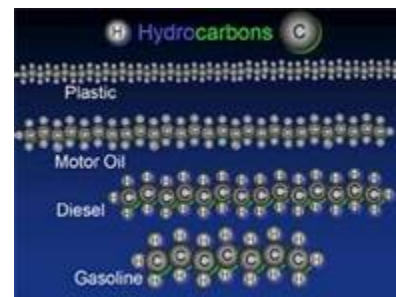
But, you’re asking, how can this help me? Good question.

TO-15 can be used for most Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) investigations. You can use it for odor identification, general investigations, and clearance testing after remediation. TO-15 can also be used in mold investigations by identifying the mVOCs; this is especially important where odors are present but no elevations of mold spores are found in initial air sampling. Certain mVOCs, like 3-methyl-1-butanol, 2-hexanone and 2-heptone have been used as fungal growth indicators.

We have used TO-15 sampling to find the degree of hydrocarbon contamination in a building adjacent to a service station; it was used to find out what was causing an acrid odor on the side of a complainant’s home that receives the early morning sun; it was used to measure workplace exposures to various compounds in a pesticide plant; it was used to evaluate the indoor air quality in a structure occupied by a chemically sensitized occupant; it was used in a facility adjacent to a wastewater treatment plant to measure infiltration of unwanted VOCs; and, it has been used to gather information on fixed gases like carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide as well.

To learn more about this and other IAQ inspection services offered by SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting call toll-free (877) 624-7185 ext 1 or write to consultants@solutionsiec.com. We’re also on the web at <http://www.solutionsiec.com>.

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SOLUTIONS
Indoor Environmental Consulting

“Don’t let problems with poor indoor air quality take control of your life. Empower yourself with SOLUTIONS—Indoor Environmental Consulting—today!”

(877) 624-7185

We’re on the web!

www.SolutionsIEC.com

And

www.facebook.com/SolutionsIndoorEnvironmentalConsulting

SOLUTIONS IEC is a truly experienced business that, with over twenty years of mitigation, restoration, remediation and hygiene practices, can assist you in determining the Category and Condition of the damaged structure; develop a protocol that is real and specific to the structure; and can provide expertise beyond just an inspector’s role. Our staff of professionals have been recognized in both indoor environmental consulting (Council-certified Indoor Environmental Consultants) and indoor environmental remediation supervision (Council-certified Microbial, Moisture, & Environmental Remediation Supervisors) - holding four of the most prestigious awards in the industry today! Don’t let poor IAQ take control of your life. Empower yourself with SOLUTIONS—Indoor Environmental Consulting—today!

Serving the Indiana and Illinois states!



Where Are You Looking For Solutions?

SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting is an environmental, safety and health consulting firm. Our mission is to empower every client with the knowledge and ability to control and manage their indoor environments. We offer services in all areas of environmental, safety and health management to anyone in need. Some of our important practice areas include:

Construction & Occupational Safety:

Navigating all of the safety and health regulations surrounding the workplace is getting more and more complex and litigious. In order to defensibly navigate those areas where your business needs assistance, SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting, with a background in Occupational Safety and Health, can help you complete a safety and health plan specific to your job-site.

Daily, weekly, monthly or as-needed basis, consultations and training programs and services are available.

Insurance Property & Disaster Response:

Quite often property damages, whether from a natural disaster or other event, lead to insurance claims, becoming complex as more and more professionals get involved. SOLUTIONS offers third-party assessments for protocol generations that clarify remediation processes and verify the success or failure of remediation efforts.



Indoor Air Quality & Industrial Hygiene:

Whether in the workplace or at home, SOLUTIONS offers full assessment and consulting services that look for such things as microbes, fumes, vapors, gases, particulate, and more. In addition causal factors are sought out, identified and incorporated into a comprehensive protocol for remediation that is sustainable and safe for building occupants.

To learn more about SOLUTIONS Indoor Environmental Consulting give us a call, toll-free, at (877) 624-7185 ext 1 or email us at consultants@solutionsiec.com. We’re also on the web at <http://www.solutionsiec.com>.

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